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July 20, 1967

Dear Harold:

I am sorry to be so tardy in acknowledging 1) the specially inscribed copy of "Photographic Whitewash" which did arrive special delivery shortly after we spoke, and 2) the shipment of the same book in quantity from the printer. The postage on the latter was something like $25.00 and I certainly feel awful about you or them having to incur that sum!

Let me say straight away that I am not disappointed in the new book which I find, on the whole, to be very exciting indeed! Whatever little quibbles I might have over this point or that are really miniscule compared to what surely must be called the "historical" or "documentary" value of the volume. Like your other two volumes, this one is, quite simply, of invaluable worth to all serious students and researchers on the case. I don't think anything, however, will eclipse "Whitewash I" which seems to me the quitessential piece of scholarship on the whole area of study and investigation. (I was dipping into it again last night in the pursuit of certain facts surrounding the "paper bag controversy") But the new one is certainly a worthy companion piece and "fleshing out" of certain aspects of the sub-strata which takes a proud place on the bookshelf next to its distinguished predecessors. Many, many thanks.

The Bill Turner memorandum is now in my possession. Thayer Waldo made available Bill's notes and I'm transcribing a copy for you and after a brief re-interview of the subject this week I'll send them along with my comments. There were, quite frankly, certain things in Bill's recollection of the interview with subject that do not jibe with my own impressions. As for my meetings with Thayer (who was at Maggie's for a few days) I think that will have to wait.

Sylvia phoned me yesterday about another matter and had some very warm and cordial things to say not only about your book, but about you as a person. She seems to be coming along quite well with "Accessories...."

I wish I could say the same for Maggie. The loss of a publisher was a terrible blow to her and now I find her driving herself unmercifully. She never lets up. Nor has she to this date received even a formal notification of abandonment of her contract. Not even a release from Chris Cerf so that she can seek other avenues of publication! Only a verbal term-

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ination to her agent. Then too, Ray is now in Boston with Letha and the children. And you know how close she is to Ray. His absence, therefore, in terms of the case and related areas is tantamount to a kind of spiritual and philosophical deprivation. Frankly, and this is between you and me, I wish Maggie were not quite so dependant upon Ray in the area of the case. She's got a fine mind of her own, but too often tends to treat his pronouncements as oracular and that is quite unnecessary. And I don't denigrate Ray as a primary researdher or original thinker either. The Garrison issue has caused, as you amay have guessed, a terrible falling out between Sylvia and Ray and to a lesser degree between Maggie and Sylvia. I prefer simply not to be drawn into this. I don't really think we can do much to "support" Garrison as Maggie seems to think we should. I think we should support justice and if Garrison is on the side of justice he will surely benefit. I oppose the vicious attacks on his work and feel we ~~just~~ must suspend judgement until the accused persons are given their day in court. Beyond that I am reserved about the whole New Orleans development. And differences among critics should be a healthy thing in the sense of causing one another to rexamine the bases of the thought process of each of us.

My back is coming along fine and the corset will be taken off the end of August. And I think I have two film jobs coming up next month. Please give my love to Lil.

Best wishes,

Bill

11:00 a.m. 20 July 1967

P.S. Your letter just reached me on the Billings — Ohca matter which is happily & fortuitously a timely occurrence. I think it wise to be closed mouthed about this & we will not mention it even to Bill Turner. My next door neighbor knows & trusts Billings. They are old friends.